



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan
District of Massachusetts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2008

WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/MA

CONTACT: CHRISTINA DiIORIO-STERLING

PHONE: (617)748-3356

E-MAIL: USAMA.MEDIA@USDOJ.GOV

WORCESTER COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DISABILITY FRAUD

BOSTON, MA - A Worcester county man was convicted today in federal court of making false statements to obtain Social Security disability payments.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan, Peter Emerzian, Special Agent in Charge of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of the Inspector General - Boston Regional Office, and Jeff Paula, Special Agent in Charge of the Office of the Inspector General, Social Security Administration, Office of Investigations - Boston Field Division, announced today that **LAEL WILLIAMS**, age 55, of Spencer, MA, pled guilty before U.S. District Judge Michael A. Ponsor to making false statements in applying for federal Social Security disability benefits.

At today's plea hearing, the prosecutor told the Court that had the case proceeded to trial the Government's evidence would have proven that on March 22, 2005, and October 1, 2007, **WILLIAMS** lied when he told that Social Security Administration that he had not worked since 1998 because he was disabled. The prosecutor said that in fact **WILLIAMS** worked at and was a part owner of two companies since 1998. **WILLIAMS** and his wife owned and ran Absolute Staffing, a temporary employment agency, from April 2001 to December 2003. During that time, Absolute Staffing had bank deposits of over \$300,000. In addition, the prosecutor said that in September 2003, **WILLIAMS** rehabilitated a house at 35-37 West Street in Ware, MA. Finally, **WILLIAMS** and his wife owned and ran A&W Trucking, a garbage hauling company in Ware, MA, from at least August 2004, to April 2005. According to the prosecutor, **WILLIAMS** drove A&W's garbage truck and unloaded it at the Hardwick landfill. **WILLIAMS** failed to tell Social Security about any of these work activities when he sought disability benefits. According to the prosecutor, **WILLIAMS** defrauded the Social Security Administration of \$41,700 in disability payments.

Previously, **WILLIAMS** had pleaded guilty to committing Section 8 housing fraud. Judge Michael A. Ponsor scheduled sentencing for **WILLIAMS** on both the housing and disability fraud convictions for January 9, 2009. **WILLIAMS** faces up to 10 years imprisonment, to be followed by three years of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of the Inspector General, and the Office of the Inspector General, Social Security Administration, Office of Investigations. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin O'Regan in Sullivan's Springfield office.